

REMARKS

Changes to the Claims:

Claims 1, 6-9, and 11 are currently amended, claims 5 and 12-26 are canceled, and new claims 27-36 have been added. Claims 1-4, 6-11, and 27-36 are pending in this application. No new matter has been added.

Patentability of the Current Claims:

Independent Claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-4 and 6-11 have been amended to include patentable limitations originally recited in claim 12 of the parent application (Application Serial No. 09/426,382) which claim was renumbered as claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,657,975 issuing from the parent application. Similarly, new independent claims 27 and 32 and their dependent claims 28-31 and 33-36, respectively, recite limitations included in claim 25 of the parent application which claim was renumbered as claim 14 in issued U.S. Patent No. 6,657,975. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 6-11, and 27-36 of the present application are patentable over the prior art for the same reasons as claims 12 and 25 of the parent application.

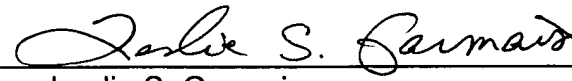
Conclusion:

Based on the foregoing, Applicants contend that all pending claims are in condition for allowance; and Applicants respectfully request that the instant case be passed to issue. Should you have any questions regarding the above, please feel free to give the below-listed attorney a call. If additional fees are required, please debit our Deposit Account No. 04-1414.

Respectfully submitted,

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